

AAUW



Humboldt Inc. (CA) Branch



The Branch

September 2023
Vol 74, Issue 1



Join us for our first meeting of the year!

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Red Lion Inn, 1929 Fourth Street, Eureka

Meeting date: September 9th:

9:30 a.m. Social

10:00 a.m. Brunch (French Toast, Sausage and Fruit

Meal Cost: \$25.00 (includes beverage)

Beverage only \$5.00

10:30 a.m. Speaker: Elliott Dabill

\$54 million in Upgrades: Important Changes to the Iconic Arcata Marsh

Your caller will contact you to make a reservation. If you have not heard from your caller by September 1, call Jean Guthrie to make a reservation. It is our branch policy that if you make a reservation and are unable to attend, you must pay for your meal.



Elliott Dabill has an ongoing relationship with the Arcata Marsh lasting more than two decades, beginning with high school biology students mapping plant life there. He has been on the board for Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) for that amount of time, and president for 14 years. Elliott has degrees in biology, education and nursing, and is a registered California Naturalist so natural history is a big motivator personally and for his outreach lectures focused on the wonders of where we live.



President's Message

I hope everyone had a great summer. It's time to get back into a routine of fall. With the help of Nancy and Alex, we have a great start for this year. Join one or more of our special groups. It's a wonderful way to develop new friendships. See you at our first meeting. Donna Hauser, Co-President



2023 Tech Trek Camp Opportunity Provided to Six Students

Our AAUW-Humboldt branch sponsored SIX campers at the **2023 Tech Trek Camp** at Sonoma State University this summer. Tech Trek is a week-long camp for seventh grade girls, designed with the aim of encouraging girls to pursue science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers. And, wow, what a wonderful learning environment

it is. Chapter members Nancy Arroyo and Gina Rogers attended two days of camp, and came back so enthusiastic about what they saw. The students took workshops in robotics, soldering and building "jiggybots"; in astronomy, learning about lenses and the fabulous careers of many women scientists and engineers; in forensics, taking fingerprint readings; in microbiology, using microscopes and pipettes and petri dishes; and so much more.

These girls were nominated by their school's science teachers, and had to submit applications and write essays and complete an interview. Our Tech Trek Committee – Mary Lou Lowry, Nancy Arroyo, Gail Freeman, Marilyn Hagar, and Dorothy Skjonsby – interviewed each student and also provided ongoing orientation information to help the parents with the applications and logistics and getting comfortable sending their girls to camp.

Thanks so much to all our AAUW members who donated to Tech Trek this year. We raised

nearly \$5,000. You'll be hearing more about the campers' experiences in upcoming monthly meetings.

Photo above: Humboldt's Tech Trek 2023 campers Olivia Perez, Darby Moore, Eva Meyer, Mallory Turner, Kyle Beninzer, and Amanda Champ with Junior Counselor Ally Morris, who our chapter sponsored a few years ago



New Member Tea

Alex Stillman and I hosted a New Member Tea Party at the Phillips House Museum in Arcata July 12. We served tea sandwiches & pickles, petite cup cakes, cookies and punch. Approximately 19 members attended the party with 6 new members. All of our officers were there to greet and welcome our new members. Several people commented that they enjoyed the more intimate gathering where they were able to have more time to visit informally and to get to know one another. Sharon Ferrett had everyone take turns introducing themselves and ended the introductions with a lovely poem about friendship.

The following is a list of our 16 new members for 2022 - 2023: Mickelle Amber; Carolyn Chamberlin; Carrie Peyton Dahlberg; Jeanne Gale; Kathleen Hughes; Mary Kay Hartman; Elizabeth Hayes; Mona Jackson; Denise Jones; SuzAnne McBride; Carolyn Miller; Paulette Pettis; Suki Munsell; Carmela Wenger; Joan Werner; and Chris Will. All new members will be formally introduced at our Saturday September 9 meeting that have not had a previous introduction. We are so pleased to have all of these accomplished and positive women join our local AAUW group. Please look for them at our next meeting and introduce yourself. Also our Handbook for 2023 - 2024 will be out soon so you will have their information.

Karole Ely
Membership Chairperson

Please welcome our new member Denise Jones. For your directory please note the following:
Denise Jones

Notebook Computers Awarded to Two Outstanding Continuing High School Graduates

Dorothy Skjonsby and Mary Lou Lowry coordinated the awarding of notebook computers to two Humboldt County high school students. These students were selected by their teachers for their outstanding high school performance and interest in continuing education.

Magaly Gema Orea graduated from East High School, Fortuna on May 26. The faculty at East High recognized Magaly as a hard-working student who is committed to community service and continuing her education after graduation. Teacher Jacey Spies noted that Magaly volunteered in the afternoon with the Life Skills classroom and is currently working hard to get her paraprofessional certification, with plans to go to school after graduation to become an elementary educator.

The other awardee, Shasta Kirby, recently earned her high school diploma from Eureka Adult School and intends to further her education at College of the Redwoods. She completed her diploma while working full time, caring for her family, and tending to her small farm of rescue animals. Her teacher Rebecca Twiss wrote that “Shasta is remarkable for her dedication, perseverance, and positivity. Her high level of engagement and ability to advocate for herself are strengths that will lead to success in all of her endeavors.”

Our chapter has been offering an annual award to one or two outstanding female continuation high school students in the county for about 40 years now, starting out by awarding dictionaries but shifting to digital platforms as the times have changed, with this year’s awardees each receiving a notebook computer.

Photo1 caption: East High (Fortuna) student Magaly Gema Orea

Photo2 caption: Mary Lou Lowry (left) with Eureka Adult School student Shasta Kirby (center) and her teacher Rebecca Twiss (right)



Public Policy

Stronger California, a coalition partner of AAUW



California, has provided a social media toolkit for AB 524: The Family Caregiver Anti-Discrimination Act.

AB 524 is one of the bills that AAUW California is supporting. This bill will prohibit employment discrimination on account of family caregiver status, as well as recognize the opportunity to seek, obtain, and hold employment without discrimination because of family caregiver status as a civil right. AB 524 is

currently in the Suspense File, and on September 1 the Suspense File hearing will announce whether it will advance to the Senate Floor.

Take action on AB 524 now:

1. Ask your branch members and your network to urge their State Senators to vote Yes on AB 524. They can very easily do this by going to <https://actnow.io/Q2oxkgM> and completing the form. An email to their State Senator will be automatically generated.
2. The below can be shared out on social media:

What is family caregiver discrimination?


Family caregiver discrimination occurs when an employer takes a negative employment action (firing, demotions, etc.) against an employee based on their status as a caregiver.

Working mothers, pregnant people, low-wage and LGBTQ+ workers, and people of color are disproportionately impacted by caregiver discrimination.

What is AB 524, Family Caregiver Anti-Discrimination Act?

AB 524 would protect California family caregivers by ensuring that employers cannot discriminate against them at work.

What is family caregiving?
A family caregiver is anyone who provides care for a loved one – be it friends or family. People of color have disproportionately been more likely to become caregivers in recent years.

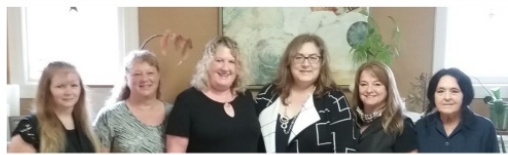


Amy Hom and Melissa Maceyko

Co-chairs, AAUW California Public Policy Committee

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Submissions welcome: deadline is the 20th of each month

**Mission. To advance gender equity for women and girls through
research, education, and advocacy.**

Vision. Equity for all.

Values. Nonpartisan. Fact-based.

AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since our founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political.



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